

June 29, 2012

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Ecoliner Program Update**

---

### **Recommendation**

Receive and file the Ecoliner Program Update.

### **Analysis**

As part of Foothill Transit's organizational commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship, in 2009 the agency committed \$6.5 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars to deploy three electric buses into revenue service in September 2010.

The Foothill Transit Ecoliner can operate on its route 24 hours a day, seven days a week utilizing the fast charge station located on the route. The key to this project is the utilization of the fast-charge battery which can be quick-charged from a 10 percent to a 95 percent charge in ten minutes or fewer while the bus is at a layover. Foothill Transit is the first public transit agency in the world to deploy this technology into heavy-duty transit operations.

The Ecoliner project is among the most environmentally conscious projects in the transit industry today and is garnering considerable interest domestically and internationally. Foothill Transit's experience is setting the standard for the development of many similar projects.

In September 2010 the first regularly scheduled Ecoliner run commenced on Line 291 and shortly thereafter, a series of upgrades commenced at the Proterra manufacturing facility in Greenville, South Carolina. The upgrades were performed one bus at a time, and the third and final upgraded bus was returned to Foothill Transit in April 2012. At that time, a second regularly scheduled Ecoliner run began on Line 291, with the third bus used as a "spare."

The Ecoliner is one of the first buses out on Line 291 in the morning and one of the last buses in at night. The buses operate over 16 hours per day, seven days a week, and accumulate approximately 160 miles in service each day. Since its introduction into revenue service in 2010, the three Ecoliners have successfully transported thousands of customers more than 50,000 miles.



Executive Board Meeting – 6/29/12  
Ecoliner Program Update  
Page 2

The cutting edge technology this project promised has met expectations as the electric bus fleet and charger uptime exceeds 90 percent. The Ecoliner consistently meets the range specifications, often surpassing the required 30 miles per charge. We will continue to collect data, monitor, and measure the bus and charger system performance.

**Budget Impact**

This is a status update item only. There is no budget impact.

Sincerely,

George Karbowski  
Director of Maintenance and Vehicle Technology

Doran J. Barnes  
Executive Director